

From: rhankel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 1:50pm
Subject: Problem not solved

Hi,

I don't feel the the deal made solves the underlining problem -- Microsoft's monopoly. At the end of the day they will still be able to leverage their monopoly to gain advantages which will reduce or eliminate the competition. Microsoft has bundled software in several key areas such as downloadable sound and video which has nothing to do with the core os. But because this software is bundled, people are less likely to download competitors, even if the software is free, because of the difficulty of downloading and installing, especially if your are not a technically minded person. (How many people do you know who don't know how to set the time on their vcr.)

It would be far better to force Microsoft to license their os to other venders but at a regulated rate. (Otherwise they will price it so high nobody will want to touch it.) Dividing the company is no good either as the os portion would still have the monopoly. The best would be to open source the code for the OS. Microsoft would still be able to develop and market their product but they wouldn't be able to leverage it for fear of someone else coming in and doing what they won't.

In short, please remember what this case was all about -- Microsoft using its monopoly to illegally leverage dominance in emerging technologies such as the internet. The solution must directly prevent Microsoft from ever having even the slightest chance of doing this ever again. From past experience with Windows 95 and Internet Explorer you can see that only the strongest action will prevent further abuse.

Thanks,
Rod Hankel